

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In one embodiment, an elapsed playback time associated with a digital playback  
5 device is determined and compared to an allotted playback time for the device. In the  
event the elapsed and allotted playback times satisfy a predetermined relationship with  
respect to one another, further content playback on the device may be denied or  
otherwise regulated until content playback rights intrinsic to the device are renewed or  
“recharged”.